1	2	3	4	5
Greece	Drachmas	151.09	225.47	49.2
Belgium	Franc	28.10	40.00	42.3
Italy	Lire	1495.00	1910.00	27.8
Spain	Pesetas	94.00	120.00	27.7
China	RMB	2.16	2.40	11.1
Phillipines	Pesos	7.57	10.26	35.5
Thailand	Bhat	8.16	8.46	3.7
Myanmar	Kyat	2.31	2.39	3.5
Bangladesh	Taka	12.70	13.70	7.9
Japan	Yen	95.00	120.00	26.3
Pakistan	Rupees	9.66	17.23	78.4
India	Rupee	8.02	21.13	163.5

Diesel is an item of mass consumption and its price in India is fixed by Government taking into account various factors like production cost, socio economic factors etc. The price of Petrol is fixed in such a manner to cross subsidise certain essential petroleum products used by vulnerable sections of the society.

[Translation]

Tatkal Seva Scheme

*247. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently announced a revised "Tatkal Seva" scheme for issue of fresh LPG connections;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the benefits likely to accrue under this scheme to the LPG consumers; and

(d) the time by which this scheme is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d) As per the modified Tatkal Scheme which has come into effect from 20.2.97, any person can have an LPG connection by paying a non-refundable amount of Rs. 4000/- in addition to regular security deposit towards cylinders and regulator, subject to the condition that he does not already possess an LPG connection. The connection will installed at customer's premises within seven days from the date of receipt of application.

(c) Any person who is in urgent need of an LPG connection, can avail of the same immediately under Tatkal Scheme.

[English]

Special Funds for Drought Programmes of Orissa

*248. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is considering any proposal to provide special funds for rural drinking water programme in drought prone areas of Bolangir and Nuapada in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total amount released under JRY to drought prone districts of Orissa during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) Rural Water Supply Schemes in the drought Prone Areas of Bolangir and Nuapada are included in the plan of action of the State to provide safe drinking water to all habitations in the State. Under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, in addition to the normal allocation of Rs. 34.68 crore, an additional allocation of Rs. 5.68 crore has also been made and released to cover the 'Not Covered' and 'Partially Covered' habitations (less than 10 lpcd) in the State. Further under the Basic Minimum Services, an allocation of Rs. 79.26 crore has also been made to the State, to be utilised for the seven basic minimum services, including Rural Water Supply.

(c) An amount of Rs. 1904.66 lakhs was released as central assistance to six brought prone districts of Orissa i.e. Kalahandi, Nuapada, Sonepur, Bolangir, Boudh, and Nayagarh during 1996-97.

[Translation]

Promotion of Hindi

*249. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry propose to implement the national language Hindi, as an official language, fully in this Golden Jubilee year of Independence; and

(b) whether this Department propose to adopt a resolution during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Science and Technology complies with the guidelines issued by the Deptt. of Official Language (Ministry of Home Affairs) from time to time regarding implementation of Official Language.

No proposal is under consideration for adoption of a specific resolution.